

2,501 new jobs approved

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet held a meeting Tuesday under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and approved the 1993 ministries and government departments' Manning table system. The system included creating 2,501 new jobs at the Ministry of Education, 1,000 new vacancies at the Ministry of Health, 170 at the Customs Department, 154 at the Income Tax Department, 140 at the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment, 75 at the Administrative Inspection Bureau, 70 at the Ministry of Justice, and 70 at the rest of the ministries and government departments. By this, some 4,814 new posts were created at the various government institutions. About 750 job vacancies were offered in public institutions not included in the Manning table. The Cabinet also approved a recommendation by Finance Minister Basel Jardaneh to speed up the process of appointing applicants for these posts. The government ceased to hire new employees on Nov. 30, 1992 to enable the General Budget Department to issue the Manning table and the 1994 general budget. The Council of Ministers also approved the sales tax draft law and decided to refer it to the parliament for approval in the current parliamentary session. This law will replace the consumption tax law.

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AMMAN WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27, 1993, SHA'BAN 4, 1413

Man with explosives held at Beirut airport

BEIRUT (AP) — A Cypriot man, who allegedly had explosives strapped to his waist, was arrested at Beirut airport Tuesday just minutes before boarding a flight to the Cyprus town of Larnaca, aviation officials said. An official said airport police discovered a stick of dynamite and some Semtex, a powerful and difficult to detect explosive, attached to his waist during a routine body check. The official said he was pulled out of the queue for the Middle East Airlines (MEA) flight at 12:25 p.m. (1025 GMT), five minutes before takeoff. He was identified by the official as Nicholas Syllouris, 24, of Nicosia. He said no explosives were found in Syllouris' luggage, but security officers did find photos of what appeared to be uniformed Lebanese militiamen. After the incident, all the passengers were ordered off the jet and asked to reclaim their baggage. They were all required to undergo a meticulous body search before reboarding, the official said. The passengers were then allowed to take off in another MEA aircraft at 3:00 p.m. (1300 GMT), while security examined the original Boeing 707 for explosives. Nothing was found aboard the plane. Syllouris was committed for interrogation by a military magistrate, the official said. It was unclear if hijacking was the man's motive.

Jordan Times

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Price: Jordan 100 fils; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams

Budget enacted

AMMAN (Petra) — A Royal Decree was issued Tuesday approving law no. 1 for 1993, which is the 1993 general budget law. The law takes effect as of Jan. 1, 1993, according to the decree.

Yemeni parties seem to drop merger

SANA (R) — Yemen's two ruling parties appear to have dropped plans to turn their coalition into a merger to ensure victory in general elections next April, the first since the North and South united in 1990. President Ali Abdulla Saleh's People's General Congress (PGC), in a statement Monday night after two days of merger talks with the Yemen Socialist Party (YSP), called for broader-based "national concord... that would not breach the spirit of democracy." Opposition parties complain a merger of the parties that controlled the two Yemens until 1990 would be undemocratic and would entrench the power of the two political giants.

'Embezzler' returns \$21m to Kuwait

KUWAIT (AP) — An oil tanker executive jailed on charges of embezzling tens of millions of dollars from the Kuwait Oil Tanker Company (KOTC) has returned part of the money to the treasury, the oil minister said Tuesday. Oil Minister Ali Al Baghish said the accused had returned the 6.2 million Kuwaiti dinars (\$21.7 million) to the central bank over the past few days. The two executives accused in the scandal are believed to have raked in more than \$100 million by renting tankers in their own names at a low price, leasing them to the state-owned company at an inflated rate and pocketing the difference. One executive, Hassan Qabazard, has been jailed in Kuwait and denied bail. Another executive, Abdul Fatah Al Badr, apparently received a tip that his arrest was imminent and fled to London. The assets of both were frozen. The oil minister would not specify who returned the money but said: "There is only one here."

Iraq urges Turkey to discuss dam

NICOSIA (AP) — Iraq appealed to Turkey again Tuesday to discuss a new hydroelectric project on the Euphrates River. A spokesman for the Iraqi Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation said construction of the Birecik Dam near the border with Syria would affect the flow of the river's flow into that country and into Iraq. The spokesman, Abdul Sattar Salman, was quoted by the Iraqi News Agency as saying that international law does not allow construction of projects that decrease water flow beyond mutually decided levels. Mr. Salman said Baghdad had asked Turkey and Syria for a joint meeting on the issue but had received no answer.

Algeria sets deadline for turning in guns

ALGIERS (R) — The Algerian authorities have given hunters in areas under night curfew until Feb. 10 to turn in their guns, apparently to keep them out of the hands of Muslim fundamentalists fighting the security forces. The Interior Ministry, which earlier asked Algerians in the seven regions under curfew to turn in weapons, said they must now surrender all "hunting guns" within the next two weeks. In a statement broadcast Tuesday, it said steps would be taken against those who did not obey. The guns would be returned sometime later, it added.

Alleged Soviet coup plotters to be tried

MOSCOW (AP) — The officials accused of trying to overthrow the Soviet government in 1991 will be tried before the Russian Supreme Court beginning April 14, a court official said. Russian news agencies Tuesday. Prosecutors and defense lawyers have prepared for more than a year, but a date was not announced until Tuesday. Twelve men will face charges of high treason and conspiracy to seize state power. Anatoly Ukolov, chairman of the court's military tribunal, told the Interfax and ITAR-TASS news agencies.

Ghali calls for U.N. action against Israel

Rabin cries foul; U.S. envoy says Clinton 'unlikely' to back sanctions

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies)

— Secretary-General Boutros Ghali recommended Tuesday that the Security Council take "whatever measures are required" to force Israel to return nearly 400 expelled Palestinians.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin accused the United Nations of exercising a "double standard" against Israel. Israel's U.N. ambassador, Gad Yaacobi, said Dr. Ghali's stance was "one-sided and totally ignores the background" behind the expulsion.

Israel ordered the expulsion after six Israeli soldiers were killed by militants in a 10-day period.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) U.N. office said it was working on a resolution to impose international sanctions on Israel to force it to comply.

The PLO said its resolution would impose economic sanctions on Israel and bar it from attending international conferences on human rights.

The United States, however, indicated it would block such a resolution. Officials in Washington said Monday they had told Arab governments the United States wanted the dispute settled by the parties.

In a report released at U.N. headquarters, Dr. Ghali said Israel's refusal to take back the deportees "challenges the authority of the Security Council." He recommended that the council "take whatever measures are required to ensure that its unanimous decision ... is respected."

The 15-nation council voted unanimously Dec. 18 to adopt a resolution demanding that Israel return the Palestinians.

Israel expelled 415 men on Dec. 17 at alleged members of the Muslim fundamentalist Hamas and Islamic Jihad movements. The expulsion was in retaliation for a series of attacks, including the slayings of six security troopers, that were blamed on

Hamas. Fourteen men expelled in error have since returned and five others were hospitalized, leaving 396 stranded in a tent camp north of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

But Haidar Abdul Shafi, the chief Palestinian negotiator at the Middle East peace talks, welcomed the proposal. "We have been asking a long time for international protection," Dr. Abdul Shafi said.

Mr. Rabin gave reassurance earlier when Ambassador Harrop told army radio that President Bill Clinton did not want to use a veto but was "most unlikely" to allow U.N. sanctions against Israel.

"It's been made very clear to me that the new administration wishes to continue a very close relationship with Israel," the U.S. ambassador said.

The ministry repeated an appeal to the Security Council to avoid further steps against Israel until Israel's supreme court ruled on the expulsion of the Palestinians. A decision might come later this week.

But the PLO was already pressing for sanctions. Riyad Mansour, its deputy permanent observer at the United Nations, told reporters he would immediately begin drafting a sanctions resolution.

Dr. Ghali's report, issued after two of his envoys failed to persuade Mr. Rabin to comply with U.N. demands, said the expulsions were "only the most recent in a series of violations by Israel" of international conventions on human rights.

"The report is an example of double standard, completely ignoring terrorism and singling out only the steps taken against it," Mr. Rabin told reporters after briefing a parliamentary committee in occupied Jerusalem.

Israel frequently has accused the United Nations of holding it to tougher human rights standards than Arab states.

Israel's army radio quoted Mr. Rabin as telling the committee he hoped the United States would veto any attempt by the Security Council to impose sanctions.

William Harrop, the U.S. ambassador in Tel Aviv, said on army radio he hoped the case could be resolved without a council vote.

The foreign ministry said there was

(Continued on page 5)

Abdul Shafi says U.S. will make Israel yield

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R)

— The chief Palestinian peace negotiator said Tuesday he was certain Washington would help make Israel take back hundreds of Arabs expelled to Lebanon.

"I am certain the United States will take the position that will force Israel (to comply). We can't expect any big power to stand back from supporting what is right and what is legitimate," Haidar Abdul Shafi told a news conference.

"It will be shameful and ridiculous for America, in this case where Israeli intransigence is threatening the peace process, will take a different stand."

U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali recommended Monday that the U.N. Security Council take "whatever measures are required" to force Israel to take back the expellees in compliance with Resolution 799.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin has told two U.N. envoys, during three missions since the expulsions on Dec. 17, that he will not obey. Israel says the evictees have links with Islamic groups that killed six soldiers.

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Evictees urge sanctions

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Middle East News

Yeltsin criticises U.S. policy on Iraq, Yugoslavia

MOSCOW (AP) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin, under mounting pressure from hardliners, chided the United States Monday for trying to "dictate terms" to Iraq and Yugoslavia.

The statement followed a chorus of accusations in the Russian press and parliament that Mr. Yeltsin was abandoning longtime Soviet allies in Iraq and fellow Slavs in Serbia.

Although Moscow has backed United Nations resolutions against Iraq and Serbia, its support is eroding under pressure from hardliners and Russian nationalists. They have portrayed Mr. Yeltsin as a patsy of the United States.

Mr. Yeltsin said at a Kremlin news conference he had noted "a tendency on the side of the United States to dictate its terms" to both Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein and Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic.

"We have had a difference of opinion over Yugoslavia with the U.S.," he said.

Deputy Foreign Minister Vitaly Churkin said Monday that Russia would ask the United Nations to impose sanctions against Croatia unless it halted its offensive against Serbs.

The United States and other Western powers have held Serbia primarily responsible for the continued warfare in Yugoslavia.

But a Russian Foreign Ministry statement called the Croatian offensive "a very ill-conceived step" and part of "a chain of violations" of U.N. Security Council resolutions.

Mr. Yeltsin's gentle criticism of U.S. policy towards Iraq appeared aimed at former President George Bush rather than the newly-inaugurated Bill Clinton.

"We think that there needs to be political dialogue with Iraq and its government," Mr. Yeltsin said. "It seems to me Clinton is more inclined to carry out just that sort of policy."

To balance his alleged tilt towards the West, Mr. Yeltsin visited China in December and will fly to India Wednesday.

Mr. Yeltsin said the former Soviet Union had viewed India as a "card" to be played against its great rivals, America and China.

Today, he said, "we want healthy, mutually beneficial relations that do not detrimentally affect any third country. We do not



Boris Yeltsin

want an axis, triangles or blocs, we do not wish for an alliance with Iraq to the detriment of other countries.

"I would call this policy the specialty of the new Russia."

Separately, Yeltsin's foreign minister indicated Russia was not making any major shift in its foreign policy. Andrei Kozyrev told reporters earlier in the day that the "aggressive nationalism" seen in Yugoslavia was as dangerous as the cold war.

On Sunday, an extreme Russian Nationalist Party sent 10 volunteers, wearing blue uniforms and shiny black holsters, to fight alongside Iraqi forces in Iraq. Mr. Kozyrev denounced the private expedition as a "foolhardy escapade."

Still, support for Iraq appears to be growing in Russia.

"Ten years ago, the Soviet Union would have stopped this war very quickly — it would have sold good anti-aircraft missiles and fighters to Iraq. That would have been the Soviet contribution to the common cause of peace," the hardline newspaper Literatura Rossia said in a pro-Iraq commentary Saturday.

Last week, Russia issued a diplomatic note demanding that the United States and other allied powers seek explicit approval from the U.N. Security Council before launching further attacks against Iraq.

Russia's Foreign Ministry said in the note that Iraq was to blame for failing to comply with U.N. resolutions, but stressed that allied reaction to Iraqi actions "must be appropriate" and

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Local firms to build banking institute

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Central Building and Contracting Company will construct the new building and a local engineering company will supervise the implementation of the project.

Students at the institute most complete a two-year course to obtain a diploma in finance and banking studies, which makes them eligible for employment in Jordanian banks, he said.

Dr. Haddad said the institute, which initially began by offering afternoon courses, now offers morning courses as well to cope with the growing number of students.

The institute's diploma is accredited by the Ministry of Higher Education.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

King endorses Talhouni ambassadorship

AMMAN (Petra) — A Royal Decree was issued Tuesday endorsing the Cabinet appointment of Adnan Talhouni as Jordan's ambassador to Mauritania. Mr. Talhouni also serves as Jordan's ambassador to Morocco.

Jordan attends high-tech meeting in Italy

AMMAN (Petra) — The Council of Ministers announced Tuesday that Jordan will take part in a meeting to be held in the Italian city of Bari on Jan. 28, dealing with industry and modern technology transfer. Director General of the Jordanian Investments Corporation (JIC) will attend the meeting, which is organised by the European Community.

Husseini to address European Parliament

AMMAN (Petra) — Chairman of the steering committee for the Palestinian Delegation to the Arab-Israeli peace negotiations Faisal Husseini left Amman for Brussels Tuesday to address the European Parliament. He said he would urge the European nations to exert serious efforts towards forcing Israel to return the 356 Palestinians expelled to southern Lebanon a month ago. Mr. Husseini arrived in Amman from the West Bank Monday evening.

German envoy visits University of Jordan

AMMAN (Petra) — German ambassador to Jordan Heirich Reiner visited the University of Jordan Tuesday and met with president Fawzi Gharibeh. Discussions covered cooperation between German institutes and the University of Jordan.

Environmentalists plan awareness seminar

NORTH SHUNEH — Jordan Valley (Petra) — The Jordanian Society for the Prevention of Environmental Pollution plans to organise a two-day programme here early next month to help spread awareness among the public on the need for protecting the environment. The society said seminars, films and other activities and exhibitions will be held in the course of the event.

Austrian plane makes emergency landing

AMMAN (Petra) — An Austrian airliner made an emergency landing at the Queen Alia International Airport Tuesday while on a scheduled flight to Syria. An airport statement said the Austrian plane could not land in Damascus because of dense fog in the early hours of the day.

Tourism delegation exhibits Jordan in Spain

AMMAN (Petra) — A delegation representing the Ministry of Tourism and Jordan's tourism sector left for Madrid Tuesday to take part in an international tourism exposition. The Jordanian pavilion at the nine-day event will portray Jordan's culture and history via displays of its tourist attractions, handicrafts, national costumes, posters and other items. The ministry said one of the objectives of participating is to attract tourists to the Kingdom.

New book on Muslims in former USSR

AMMAN (Petra) — The Royal Scientific Society (RSS) has published a book in English about Muslims in the former Soviet Union. The book by Fakhreddin Daghestani and Mohammad Amireh, reviews the history of the Islamic Republics in the former Soviet Union, their languages, population distribution and scientific progress.

120,000 olive trees planted in Zarqa

ZARQA (Petra) — The Zarqa Governorate Tuesday observed Arbor Day and held a tree-planting celebration during which 120,000 olive saplings were planted. The agriculture department in the region distributed another 120,000 forest tree saplings free of charge to individuals and organisations to be planted in the governorate.

New Jordanian PhD studies kindergartens

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordanian researcher Khaled Al Sharai has obtained his doctorate degree from the University of Ein Shams in Cairo. His thesis on kindergartens in Jordan covers various kindergartens in Irbid, Zarqa and Salt and presents the views of 250 people involved in the kindergarten field. Dr. Sharai found that education at the kindergarten level was not receiving the required level of attention in Jordan.

Road accidents kill 4

AMMAN (Petra) — Four citizens died and 205 others were injured in 364 road accidents between Jan. 9 and 16, according to a statistical bulletin issued by the Traffic Department Tuesday. The bulletin said that drivers aged between 20 and 30 years were responsible for 43 per cent of the accidents and that most of the accidents — 309 — occurred in the Amman Governorate.

Bani Kenana farmers to receive loans

AMMAN (Petra) — The Agricultural Credit Corporation (ACC) will offer loans to Bani Kenana district farmers whose olive trees were damaged by last winter's weather. ACC Deputy Director Abdul Salam Arabyat said Monday. He said the corporation has finalised the list of farmers who should visit the ACC director in Irbid to complete the necessary procedures for obtaining the loans.

Governor promises services to Ghor Al Safi

KARAK (Petra) — Karak Governor Radhi Ibrahim met Monday with citizens in the southern Jordan Valley at Ghor Al Safi Social Development Society. Mr. Ibrahim told the citizens that the government plans to provide them with all the basic services in accordance with the available resources. The governor stressed the need for local, rural and municipal councils to cooperate to improve services offered to citizens in their areas. Mr. Ibrahim was briefed by citizens on their demands and needs, particularly in agricultural fields.

Jordan relies less on guest nurses

AMMAN (J.T.) — With the increasing number of professional nurses and midwives graduating from the Ministry of Health's nursing colleges, Jordan has had to rely considerably less on expatriate nursing staff, said Dr. Salim Smadi, director of the ministry's training colleges.

In the 1980s there were several hundred expatriate nurses employed in Jordan; today there are only 67, he said.

The ministry's nursing colleges — the first established in 1952 — face the growing challenge of graduating more nurses because of the country's increasing number of hospitals and health care centres.

For the academic year 1992-93, the ministry's colleges received 1,500 applications from high-school graduates.

Admission requirements call for a minimum 65 per cent average in the Tawjihī scientific stream, Dr. Smadi said.

Upon acceptance, the student is provided with accommodation, health insurance, transportation



Queen Noor bestows diploma on graduate of the Jordanian Institute of Specialised Nursing Studies

and training, he said.

After completion of four years, students graduate as registered nurses, with a diploma equivalent to the BA degree. Those in midwifery studies graduate in three years.

Graduates of both curricula are quickly absorbed by the private and public sector hospitals and health centres.

To date, the ministry has graduated 1,481 male and female nurses and 562 midwives.

Conference to study maritime crime

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Combating international trading fraud and piracy on the high seas, are the major topics of a general conference scheduled for Feb. 10, in Amman, the Shipping Agents Association (SAA) announced.

SAA President Tawfiq Kawar told the Jordan Times that with the rise in maritime crime in various parts of the world such a meeting is expedient in order to explore methods of combating these incidents.

Mr. Kawar said acts of piracy began off the coast of Algeria, sprouted up in the Straits of Malacca in Indonesia, and now

have reached the Red Sea. A statement by the Regional Piracy Centre (RPC) in Kuala Lumpur, said that out of 91 reported piracy cases in 1992, 73 occurred in Asian waters.

As recently as December Reuters reported that a Thai cargo ship was attacked by pirates who killed the ship's engineer and wounded its captain and two crew members.

The MV Soya had left Aqaba with a cargo of phosphate bound for Sri Lanka and was attacked in international waters off the Yemeni coast. Reuters reported.

The pirates first directed small armfuls towards the bridge, then opened fire with rocket-propelled grenades, killing the engineer.

Participants will include international and regional experts in maritime transport and trade.

Organisers of the meeting added that Jordanian importers, exporters, commercial banks and insurance companies have sustained severe losses as a result of maritime crime.

Somalia

(Continued from page 1)

Marines make up fewer than 9,000 of the some 25,000 U.S. troops in Somalia but have been assigned the most hazardous jobs, such as patrolling northern Mogadishu at night.

Spokesmen said the Marine killed Monday was hit by one of four to six shots a sniper in fired from a house at patrol west of the soccer stadium where more than 1,000 Marines are encamped.

The patrol returned the fire, but it was not known if the sniper was hit, spokesman said. The Marine, who was not identified pending notification of family, died less than two hours later in a Swedish field hospital.

Marines have regularly been the targets of sniper fire in the area. The other marine was killed there one week ago while on night patrol.

In the space of an hour on Friday, bandits in northern Mogadishu attacked aid workers five times in broad daylight, prompting pleas from relief organisations for more protection.

Marine Colonel Chip Gregson, deputy director of operations for the U.S.-led task force, said Tuesday that the U.S. mission had been more than just escorting convoys.

"It was the creation of a secure environment," he said. "As the original largest threat, the large-scale factional fighting, has been diminished, then the threat shifts to other things and we're trying to develop the appropriate tactics to counter it."

"It starts to look an awful lot like more traditional police work, especially when you start talking about how to provide security for people in the city," Col. Gregson said.

Asked how long U.S. forces would be needed in Somalia, Col. Gregson said: "It's hard to put an estimate on it. How long the U.S. leadership will be needed here is pretty much up to the United Nations and when they feel conditions are appropriate for the U.N. to take over."

That could mean an extended stay. U.N. spokesman Joe Sills has said the United Nations will take control of Somalia peacekeeping forces only gradually.

Customs income accounts for 37% of total revenues

AMMAN (J.T.) — Finance Minister Basel Jardaneh said Tuesday the Customs Department in Jordan last year collected JD 420 million in duty and fees — nearly 37 per cent of the total domestic revenues of the treasury.

The department was successful despite the adverse consequences of the Gulf crisis, the minister said at a ceremony marking the 40th anniversary of the Brussels-based Customs Cooperation Council (CCC).

Nations around the world observe CCC day because customs have a direct bearing on the lives of all people in all aspects of life, Customs Department Director Mohammad Jamil said in an address at the ceremony.

Outlining the CCC's activities, Mr. Jamil said that apart from collecting duty on imports, the CCC has been instrumental in combating smuggling and drug trafficking operations and commercial fraud.

The CCC has been charged with all matters relating to cooperation in customs and the examination of related technical aspects with the aim of achieving harmony and uniformity.

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Harm of words

THE INTERNATIONAL community should take strong exception to the remark of U.S. Secretary of Defence Les Aspin made Sunday to the effect that there is no way that Iraq can meet its obligations under the various U.N. Security Council resolutions as long as its President Saddam Hussein remains at the helm. Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tareq Aziz was right to say in an interview aired Monday that such an absurd interpretation runs counter to the letter and spirit of Security Council resolutions.

It is premature to tell with any degree of certitude whether Aspin's "whimsical interpretation" as Aziz aptly called it, does in fact reflect the perspective of the whole Clinton administration. Aspin is already at loggerheads with his president over the latter's decision to lift the ban on gays serving in the U.S. armed forces. The controversy over this service may indeed suggest that the new administration still lacks coherence in its domestic and foreign policies and may still be in search of its way amidst the traditional confusions that normally accompany the transfer of power in Washington.

President Clinton has yet to assert his leadership by making his internal and external policies more clearly defined in orientation and objectives. The few remarks made by the White House on the Iraqi situation are by no means sufficient to shed light on how the new president will be moving in the weeks and months ahead to resolve the festering Gulf conflict in a meaningful way. If the Clinton administration truly believes that the Iraqi conflict can be resolved by military might alone, then there must be something wrong with this line of thinking. Much more enlightened and sophisticated approach is expected of the man who stood up against the military solution to the Vietnam conflict more than two decades ago.

Surely Iraq should proceed forthwith to introduce elements of democracy and surely the Iraqi people should exercise their fundamental political rights. But to suggest that the U.N. Security Council resolutions imposed on Iraq in the aftermath of its invasion and brief occupation of Kuwait give Aspin or anybody else the right to tell the Iraqis whom they may retain and whom they may depose is something that we cannot understand. The U.S. chief executive is called upon therefore to elucidate his policies on the Middle East region and its disputes by making clear his objectives as soon as possible. Meanwhile, the president may soon discover the need for his outspoken cabinet members to watch their words more closely lest they give the impression that no one is yet in command of policy-making in Washington.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I daily Tuesday welcomed a bid by the Sudanese government to bring about reconciliation between Iran and Iraq. It said it can find no reason for the Arabs and Muslims not to support such a bid at this crucial moment in their history, noting that a united stand is required to stem aggression on the Islamic World. There is no doubt that Tehran, Khartoum and Baghdad have begun to realise that only their joint efforts and unity of ranks can prevent further aggression and abort the colonialist powers' attempts to subjugate the Islamic world, said the daily. The paper said that for two years the Iraqis have been subjected to aggression and there is no doubt that the Sudanese and the Iranians could be subjected to a similar measure, therefore, it is time for the three Muslim nations to come together and join forces to stem the common enemy and common threats. The paper said that the United States does not conceal its enmity and hostile attitude towards Iraq and the Islamic Nation at large. It said that the Iranians should realise that the time has come to stand by their Iraqi brothers in their ordeal and end the injustice and the sufferings of the women and children. The paper said that the Arabs and Muslims ought to come together and find a way of stemming the common danger.

NOW THAT three envoys have failed to convince the Rabin government to respond favourably to the U.N. Security Council and implement its Resolution 799, said Al Dastour daily, one can only believe that the Israelis have succeeded in persuading the United Nations Organisation that the Palestinian deportees should not be returned. The Palestinians have now spent 40 days exposed to the cold, stranded with no help, despite the world community's efforts to help them return to their homeland, added the paper. The paper said it seems that the Israelis and their Higher Court of Justice have more power than the United Nations and that its decisions rule supreme above the world community's resolution. The paper said that the Israelis would not have remained so obstinate had it not been for continued American support for their policies in the occupied Arab region. Therefore, one can only conclude that the U.N. Security Council is being rendered impotent and has no alternative but to succumb to the whims and desires of Israel and the United States; and one can only expect further double standards manifested by the world organisation in dealing with world issues, the paper added. As long as the United Nations has an absolute power and influence over the United States, the Arabs can never hope to attain their rights or see the Arab-Israeli conflict settled in a fair manner, said the daily. It said that in view of the situation, one can only expect further dangerous situation prevailing in the region in the foreseeable future.

Economic Forum

Is the Jordanian economy overheated?

THE ECONOMIC policy of Jordan is interested, in its current stage, in containing banking credit facilities within certain ceilings specified in the economic adjustment programme. The exact goals of this credit squeeze and the mechanism through which it helps in attaining them are not explicitly pronounced in the programme but can be speculated on. Presumably, such squeeze leads to shaving demand for money, which is hopefully expected to curtail demand for imports, thus conserving foreign exchange, and also to stemming aggregate demand, dampening inflationary pressures. The assumption must accordingly be that there is excess liquidity in the economy or a potential one can develop along the way and that this excess is detrimental.

The liquidity of the economy is not exactly the same as the liquidity of the commercial banks but the latter can be a very reliable and accurate proxy for the former. We suggested more than once in this column and elsewhere that the liquidity of the commercial banks be gauged by the voluntary deposits they keep with the Central Bank of Jordan. This is the best measure available for this purpose simply because such deposits earn very low interest, two per cent to a maximum of four per cent. If there is no excess liquidity, banks will find better uses for their funds.

The volume of voluntary deposits moreover measures how liquid the economy is.

On this count, commercial banks have been awash with liquidity for quite a long time, as early as March 1991. Deposits they held with the Central Bank in excess of the legal reserves, that is compulsory deposits, jumped from JD41 million in April 1991 to JD73 million in March 1991. This figure grew to JD424 million at the end of 1991 and stood at JD388 million at the end of October 1992 despite the very important fact that economic activity picked up very considerably during 1992 when a 15 per cent rise in gross domestic product (GDP) failed to mop up the excess liquidity.

Can it be that this dormant liquidity may pose a threat to the economy, in the sense that releasing it into the stream of economic activity may lead to what economists term as the overheating of the economy?

To start with, it must be recalled that overheating means that the injection of money into the economy is translated mainly into higher prices. This happens only when the economy reaches the state of full employment whereby additional money can not create new production facilities that serve to boost supply (due to

absence of appropriate labour). Instead, additional money competes for the existing output and thus pushes prices upwards.

Coming back to Jordan, one finds that the Jordanian economy suffers not from full employment but from "full unemployment". The rate of inflation has been harnessed within one digit levels. Therefore it is not scientific at all to talk or be fearful of overheating. The overheating argument which has been cited in one or two cases recently is faulty and ill-founded.

There is no need to soak bank liquidity or to suppress its expansion for the sole aim of combating or pre-empting inflation in the present situation, especially if we recall also the quantitative restraints imposed on banks under the adjustment programme. But it might be useful for other important goals such as curtailing demand for imports — whose expansion imposes a burgeoning threat. But then our policymakers will have to do something about the liquidity accruing to importers from their deposits kept abroad. And certainly squeezing credit will help, to a certain extent, in checking prices, but it will simultaneously constrain economic growth in an economy plagued by or endowed with 160,000 unemployed people.

Iraqis unliberated — Clinton should make up for Bush's failure

By Jim Hoagland

WASHINGTON — In the first moments of his presidency Wednesday Bill Clinton voiced gracious but distinctly measured praise for George Bush. By applauding Mr. Bush's half-century of public service and omitting reference to his accomplishments as president, Mr. Clinton captured the ambience that has surrounded the transfer of power between the two men: correct, but far from cordial.

The pre-inaugural raids against Iraq added to hidden concern in the Clinton camp over Mr. Bush's handling of the transition. For some Clinton confidants, the raids were proof that Mr. Bush's outwardly courteous leave-taking masked a willingness behind the scenes to rain on the new president's parade.

That may overstate the case. There are alternative explanations for a string of Bush decisions during the transition that have either complicated the opening phase of the Clinton presidency or let pass opportunities to ease the path for the man Mr. Bush styled as a "bozo" on the campaign trail.

Committing U.S. troops to Somalia in November without consulting Mr. Clinton signaled the correct but uncordial pattern. That pattern prevailed to the end as the White House last week rebuffed quiet overtures from the Clinton team for a joint statement on Haiti. Such a statement might have eased Mr. Clinton's task in stepping back from his campaign pledges on Haitian refugees. "They stoned the Clinton people, and it was noticed," says a political source with high-level contacts in both camps.

This atmosphere gave rise to understandable last-minute suspicions that Mr. Bush may not have put Mr. Clinton's interests at the top of his list in waiting so late to launch last weekend's cruise missile strike against Iraq.

The extended final strikes against Iraq were too much too late. In ways that dovish critics never could, the strikes underlined the failure of Mr. Bush's post-Gulf war strategy towards Iraq and the absence of a meaningful approach towards regional conflicts after the cold war.

Saddam Hussein has never ceased to be in violation of significant portions of the United Nations resolutions that brought an end to Operation Desert Storm, two years ago. He could have

been hit any time, with justice and probably with more effect. Mr. Clinton's behaviour is more likely to be affected by these strikes than is Saddam Hussein. It will be difficult to be less assertive than Mr. Bush was in defending the no-fly zones in southern and northern Iraq and the right of U.N. inspectors to enter Iraq. By design or otherwise, Mr. Bush's final days lock Mr. Clinton onto a confrontational course with Iraq.

There is no great sin in that,

nor in the destruction of a dominant factory that could have contributed to a new effort by Saddam Hussein to develop nuclear weapons. Better late than never. But Mr. Clinton inherits a policy that let Saddam Hussein remain strong enough to pick the time of confrontations with the United States and the United Nations, to survive those confrontations and then exploit them politically. The uneasiness that Russia and some of America's Arab partners

voted about the pre-inaugural strikes amounts to important gains for Saddam Hussein.

Mr. Clinton should move quickly to stem those gains and make clear that he will not tolerate other countries dealing with Saddam Hussein.

The evidence that the

Pentagon has amassed on the war crimes committed by Saddam Hussein and his chief aides in Kuwait and Iraq gives the new president a ready-made vehicle to keep him beyond the international pale. Mr. Bush would never

give the green light for a serious effort to have the United Nations

brand

Saddam Hussein a war criminal. Mr. Clinton should, however, also authorise Vice President Al Gore to meet publicly with representatives from the strongest opposition group, the Iraqi National Congress.

President Clinton should also launch a new effective covert destabilisation programme against Saddam Hussein and replace the half-hearted, clumsy one undertaken by the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) under Mr. Bush, and examine the ideas aired last year by Defense Secretary-designate Les Aspin to use force if necessary to set up a United Nations base inside Iraq that would get relief supplies to the Kurds and Shias.

This would put people first. Mr. Bush used periodic threats and a belated burst of military raids at the end of his presidency to defend principles rather than people.

The principles of the United Nations resolutions that ended the Gulf war are worth protecting. They should have provided the cornerstone of a new approach to world order. But Mr. Bush and his generals, fearful of detracting in any way from the reputation and glory of their 100-hour triumph in the desert, turned blind eye after blind eye to Saddam Hussein's infringements and his new crimes at home, and then let ethnic cleansing proceed in ex-Yugoslavia.

One last brief season of bombing does not erase George Bush's failures in Iraq. Only Bill Clinton, the man Mr. Bush treated contemptuously during the campaign and correctly but not cordially in the transition, can buy Mr. Bush's mistakes. He can do that by adopting the long-term political strategy that will bury Saddam Hussein — The Washington Post.



1993 — a year of commitment to the environment

By Jerry Stilkinst

WASHINGTON — The United Nations is beginning to flesh out an environmental vision called "sustainable development" and President-elect Clinton has promised to make the United States a leader in the effort.

That vision won worldwide support at the unprecedented Earth Summit held last June in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, attended by more government heads — about 120 from the 179 countries belonging to the United Nations — than at any previous meeting. Their work was continued by the U.N. General Assembly, and by the end of 1992 it had created a Commission on Sustainable Development to oversee the most ambitious programme ever devised to protect the global environment while stimulating development in the Third World.

In the United States, voters in November elected as president Bill Clinton, one of whose campaign promises was that the United States will take the lead in promoting sustainable development. His running mate, Al Gore, was one of the leading environmentalists in the U.S. Senate and often spoke of the need for an agreement with the Third World to stimulate development while protecting the environment.

By the end of 1992, President-elect Clinton had selected what appeared to be an environmental cabinet. His selections to head the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Energy and Interior departments have urged such programmes as greater conservation of natural resources, increased energy efficiency and more reliance on renewable fuels such as solar energy.

Mr. Clinton and his nominee to head the Energy Department, Hazel O'Leary, said at a news conference that they wanted to change the priorities of the agen-

cy. The bulk of its \$18,800 million budget is spent on producing nuclear weapons and on such research projects as improving the efficiency of coal-fired and nuclear electrical power generation.

A study by the Energy Department in December concluded that government subsidies to the energy industry total \$5,000 million to \$10,000 million a year, depending on how a subsidy is defined. Environmental groups have been particularly active since the November election in urging more spending for solar and natural gas research and less for nuclear programmes.

One reason these groups strongly supported Mr. Clinton and Mr. Gore was their belief that the two would take the United States towards a sustainable development future. Environmentalists say they have not been disappointed with Mr. Clinton's remarks and cabinet appointments since the election. His choice for the top environmental job in the government, head of EPA, is Carol Browner, a Florida environmental official and a former assistant in Mr. Gore's Senate office.

At the United Nations, the General Assembly adopted in December "Agenda 21," an 800-page environmental and development programme negotiated at the Earth Summit. U.S. officials have called Agenda 21 an "extraordinary document" because it lists just about all environmental problems and indicates how to overcome them.

One of the issues in Agenda 21 most debated at the Earth Summit and the General Assembly meeting was the power of the Sustainable Development Commission. "The assembly decided that information will be provided to the commission by governments on a voluntary basis," a U.N. official explained in a recent interview. The reason the reports

are voluntary, he said, is that with no agreed-on definition of sustainable development there is no way to gauge progress towards that goal.

"What is sustainable for one country may be different for another country. There are no clearly defined norms of what sustainable development is," he said.

The hundreds of non-governmental organisations at the Earth Summit pushed for mandatory annual reports by each country, arguing that progress could be judged by how close each came to achieving the hundreds of goals stated in Agenda 21. In addition, they wanted the commission to have the power to investigate environmental problems anywhere in the world.

Developing countries, however, successfully opposed compulsory reporting and expanded powers for the commission. And they met little opposition in demanding that the commission monitor the amount of aid developed countries give to developing countries to help them overcome their environmental problems.

In a compromise, citizens' organisations were given the right to sit on the commission and to submit reports about problems in a country regardless of the feelings of its government.

The officers of the committee are scheduled to be elected at an organisational meeting in early February at the New York headquarters of the United Nations. The membership has been limited to 53 governments, which will serve on a rotating basis.

The first substantive commission meeting to discuss implementation of Agenda 21 will probably be held in May or June. The commission is expected to meet annually thereafter.

The General Assembly also began to put flesh on a call by the Earth Summit for a treaty to combat desertification in coun-

tries suffering from drought, particularly in Africa. It voted by consensus to create an intergovernmental committee to begin negotiations in February.

It also authorised creation of a multidisciplinary panel of experts to help negotiators deal with technical issues.

More than 150 countries at the Earth Summit signed a sweeping but not legally binding treaty to try to limit emissions of the greenhouse gases, which trap heat on Earth, to 1990 levels by the year 2000. An intergovernmental panel of scientists has been warning that the world would significantly warm if such gases as carbon dioxide, produced by the burning of such fuels as coal, oil and wood, are not checked. A warming could lead to drastic changes in climate, the panel said.

They believe that U.S. companies would move to Mexico to escape stringent environmental regulations in the United States. The Bush administration reached a free-trade agreement with Mexico and Canada in October that Mr. Reilly has called the "greenest" international economic accord ever negotiated.

But President-elect Clinton said during the election campaign that he had some concerns about the environmental effects of the proposed agreement, which has not yet been approved by Congress. Almost all environmental groups have joined a campaign to block approval, charging that the agreement will create pollution in Mexico.

They believe that U.S. companies would move to Mexico to escape stringent environmental regulations in the United States. Administration officials have tried to counter that argument by pointing out that the proposed agreement allows any of the three countries to raise an issue in a procedure designed to settle disputes.

The United States signed or took action on three other major international environmental treaties in 1992. First, officials from the United States and 92 other countries agreed in November to speed up the phase-out of chemicals that are depleting the protective ozone shield in the atmosphere.

The Bush administration also was heavily criticised at the Earth summit for refusing to sign a treaty to protect the areas of the world rich in a diversity of plant and animal life.

U.S. officials objected that the treaty did not protect the rights of companies that developed products from the genetic resources in these biologically rich areas.

In looking back in December on the development of U.S. environmental policy over the decades and his four years as EPA administrator, Mr. Reilly said that the United States continues to have the world's strictest regulations and least pollution than any other nation.

Most important, he said, is that environmental protection grew while the economy expanded. He strongly argued that developing countries should not fear that curbing pollution and protecting their environment would jeopardise their economic growth. United States Information Agency.

الإثنين 27 كانون الثاني 1993

Features

Ghali recommends U.N. action

(Continued from page 1)
Israel's priority was preventing the setting of deadlines for obeying resolution 799 and he told army radio: "We have partners who understand the seriousness of the matter."

The foreign ministry said sanctions could undermine Middle East peace talks. However, they have already been thrown into uncertainty, with Palestinians refusing to attend until the evictees are returned.

Israeli officials also criticised Dr. Ghali for not waiting until Israel's supreme court ruled on the expulsions. The court, which has rarely differed with Israeli governments on security issues, allowed expansion to proceed in December. Israel Radio said Dr. Ghali's report accused Israel of "defying the authority of the Security Council." Mr. Yacobi said it was unclear whether recommended sanctions against Israel.

"I don't want to respond except to one thing," Mr. Rabin told reporters. "The report is an example of double standard, completely ignoring terrorism and singling out only the steps taken against it," Mr. Rabin added.

The radio said Dr. Ghali's report also urged creation of a new world body mechanism to monitor the Israeli-occupied territories to ensure Palestinians' rights were respected.

In his report, Dr. Ghali outlined his unsuccessful efforts to convince Israel to comply with Security Council Resolution 799.

"In these circumstances I would be failing in my duty if I did not recommend to the Security Council that it should take whatever measures are required to ensure that its unanimous decision as set out in Resolution 799 is respected," he said.

Dr. Ghali did not recommend any specific measures but said he believed Israel's refusal to return the evictees challenged the authority of the Secur-

ity Council.

Mr. Rabin also moved to diffuse pressure from the world body by asking former cabinet minister Ezer Weizman to telephone Dr. Ghali and ask him to wait for the high court ruling.

Mr. Weizman, who confirmed on army radio that he made the call, knows Dr. Ghali from the peace negotiations with Egypt in late 1970s.

The radio said Dr. Ghali's report was requested by the council.

The U.N. chief also said he would attempt to implement a 1990 Security Council resolution calling for a U.N. monitoring mechanism in the occupied territories.

He said he would initiate discussions with Israeli authorities on this issue to assure Palestinians that the international community is not neglecting their need for safety and protection, a need which must be met regardless of progress in the (Middle East) peace talks.

Dr. Ghali outlined his personal contacts with Israeli leaders and three missions to Israel, one by U.N. Undersecretary-General James Jonah and two by special envoy Chinmaya Ghoshal, India's former U.N. ambassador.

Mr. Gharekhan in the report dismissed comments from Mr. Rabin that if the Security Council was to adopt measures against Israel it might lead to a collapse of the Middle East peace talks.

In reply, the report quoted Mr. Gharekhan as saying Israel alone would be responsible for any breakdown of the talks.

Mr. Gharekhan "noted Israel could place the deportees in prison or administrative detention which was not in violation of Fourth Geneva Convention," the report said.

U.S. officials said the Clinton administration, faced with its first tough situation in the Middle East, is telling Arab governments it could not support a drive in the United Nations to punish Israel.

The U.S. officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the Clinton administration also was telling the Arabs to wait for a ruling on the expulsions by Israel's supreme court.

Secretary of State Warren M. Christopher and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin spoke by telephone Sunday. They talked about a possible trip to the area by Mr. Christopher but no decisions were taken, the U.S. officials said.

President Clinton talked to Mr. Rabin Saturday in response to a congratulatory letter from the Israeli leader.

The two conversations indicate the new administration intends to give high priority to the Arab-Israeli conflict. It is trying to persuade Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Palestinians and Israel to resume their peace talks here.

Judith Kipper, Middle East specialist at the Brookings Institution, said in an interview it would be very difficult to reopen the negotiations without a settlement of the expulsion problem.

Ms. Kipper, who returned Sunday night from a five-week trip to Kuwait, Syria, Lebanon and Jordan, said the Arabs were determined to move ahead on the talks as soon as possible.

"But with the deportees, their public opinion is up in arms," she said.

"We are bashing Iraq every two hours and we don't budge on the deportees and on Bosnia."

Mr. Saleh said Iraq was implementing U.N. ceasefire resolutions and wanted to discuss the lifting of the "no-fly" zones over northern and southern Iraq imposed by the allies.

Referring to territorial disputes between Iran and Gulf states, Mr. Saleh said Iraq's weakness had fuelled Tehran's ambitions and Gulf countries were bound to turn to Baghdad for support.

"Not only will Iraq occupy more islands in the Arabian Gulf, but it will interfere in its neighbours' internal affairs," he said.

"Gulf states will need Iraq sooner or later. We are the only ones with the power to defend them."

Saddam will stay, Iraq tells world

(Continued from page 1)

posed after Iraq's August 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

U.N. ballistic experts Tuesday began a long-term monitoring project at an undisclosed Iraqi missile site. The nuclear team, meanwhile, said it was considering naming a "resident inspector."

Nikita Smidovich, Russian who heads the ballistic team, told reporters: "We do not expect to find prohibited things, we do not expect something dramatic."

He would give no further details of what he described as a "continuous and long-term" project.

Iraq has told the United Nations that all of its long-range missiles, such as the Scuds fired on Israel and Saudi Arabia during the Gulf war, have been destroyed in accordance with Security Council ceasefire resolutions that ended the 1991 conflict.

The U.N. special commission, which has the job of ensuring that weapons of mass destruction are eliminated, needs long-term monitoring to make sure this is the case and that Iraq does not revive its missile programme.

Western intelligence sources have said as many 100 Scuds may still be hidden.

Maurizio Zifferero, head of the nuclear inspection team, said he was considering appointing a "resident inspector" but added that the issue had not been formally raised.

He described his team's trip Tuesday to an undisclosed site as "just verifying previous work."

Mr. Zifferero said Monday that Iraq says the United Nations already knows 90 per cent — about 80 companies — of its foreign suppliers, and is willing to supply information on the rest.

Mr. Zifferero said he would continue to press for a full accounting of the foreign suppliers. He said there might be 10 to 15 more companies according to the Iraqi.

"Their statement still must be verified and I am sceptical," he told the Associated Press. "I'm sure it must be larger."

The names of the companies on the list have not been disclosed by U.N. officials, but Mr. Zifferero said they were based in Germany, the United States, France, Switzerland, Italy and other nations.

He said the trade with Iraq was "legitimate activity in most cases" but added: "In other case we have informed the governments and they are carrying out investigation of cases where they have breached internal regulations on exports."

Under the Gulf war ceasefire, Iraq

control the possession and use of fire arms pending the holding of a special meeting by the House to discuss the issue.

The House will also discuss resolutions by its judiciary committee amending Election Law No. 22 for 1986, a law banning Freemasons in Jordan, an amendment to the 1992 youth welfare draft law and other decisions and proposals.

On Tuesday, the Lower House's administrative committee held a meeting under the chairmanship of Deputy Daoud Kokaj and discussed proposals

Senate passes state security law

(Continued from page 1)
concerning the administrative constituencies in Jordan.

The meeting, which was attended by Interior Minister Shouib and Agriculture Minister Fayed Al Khasawneh, also discussed complaints by poultry farmers in the Kingdom.

In addition, the committee discussed complaints presented by the president of the Jordanian Medical Association, several government officials and citizens.

The House's Public Freedoms and Citizens' Rights Committee also met Tuesday and discussed complaints presented by citizens.

Abdul Shafiq: U.S. will pressure Israel

(Continued from page 1)
came from.

Last week a Western diplomat in Cairo said Egypt was suggesting a phased return of the evictees to defuse the crisis.

Mr. Hawatmeh, whose group opposes Palestinians taking part in peace talks under the present terms of reference laid down by the United States, said Washington hoped to produce a solution that would enable negotiations to resume on schedule next month.

The Israeli high court is expected to rule on the legality of the expulsions later this week. Officials hope the ruling will help clear up the problem.

Civil rights lawyer have asked the court to reverse the expulsions on the grounds that the Palestinians were denied the right to appeal before they were banished.

should not go along with sanctions against Israel."

"We should work closely with the Security Council of a double standard in enforcing resolutions against Israel but not against us," said Mr. Karp, who was in charge of the National Security Council's Middle East desk.

"There is a growing perception throughout the international community, that the council, by not pressuring for Israeli compliance with its resolution, of which Resolution 799 is only the latest, does not attach equal importance to the implementation of all of its decisions," he said.

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Diplomats from five Arab countries called at the State Department Friday to try to bring pressure on Israel to readmit the evictees.

The diplomats presented a Jan. 12 Arab League statement to Assistant Secretary of State Edward Djerejian Friday, demanding Israel relent and calling on the Security Council to order sanctions to force the repatriation. "They discussed the deportation issue with a view toward resolving it in a constructive manner," the State Department said.

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Houbara bustard is aphrodisiac delicacy for Arab hunters

By Ibrahim Khan
Reuter

KHAR, Pakistan — Senior officials and wildlife experts are furious about troupes of Arab princes armed with falcons careering through the deserts of southern Pakistan in motor cavalades hunting an aphrodisiac.

applied," said Syed Qabool Muhammad Shah, minister for agriculture and wildlife in the southern province of Sind.

Arab sheikhs receive permits from the central government in Islamabad each year despite the ban, Mr. Shah complained during a recent visit to the Khar centre of the Khirthar National Park, 75

single week, the banker said. The bird is also a source of "houbara diplomacy" — strengthening ties with the Gulf countries, he said.

Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Mohammad Siddique Khan Kanju and Information Minister Abdul Sattar Lalika told editors last week in Islamabad that media campaigns against houbara hunting had embarrassed the government and asked them to halt bad publicity about the Arab royal families.

The government fears the media furor could threaten ties with Gulf countries, newspaper reported.

UAE Culture Minister Khalifa Bin Mohammad Al Roumi this month said the aim of the royal huntsmen was not to kill.

"The houbara hunting is done as a sport for which falcons are used and no shooting is involved," Mr. Al Roumi told Pakistan's official APP news agency.

If houbara hunting were the objective, Siberia would have been a much better place where these birds originate and are found in abundance," he said. He offered UAE help to Pakistan to protect the houbara bustard.

Witnesses say the hunt is exciting. The houbara bustard, a large, brownish bird that looks like a Turkey and can have a wing span of up to 2.5 metres, swerves, dodges and dives to evade the falcon.

"It is a very clever bird and this makes for good sport," said one wildlife official. "It is not an easy prey."

The houbara bustard is an exotic species.

The bird eats the ephedra plant in central Baluchistan province before flying to Sind, Ms. Mirza said.

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Sabatini, Seles, Graf, Sanchez Vicario in semifinals

MELBOURNE (AP) — Third-seeded Gabriela Sabatini had to stave off three match points before she downed 18-year-old Mary Pierce of France 4-6, 7-6 (14-12), 6-0 in the quarterfinals of the Australian Open.

In a nailbiting match, the lanky Argentine overcame seven service breaks to oust the 10th-seeded Pierce, who was playing her first Australian Open.

The match did not get underway until nearly 11 p.m. because a men's doubles match went more than five hours and delayed the start of the night programme.

Sabatini's hard-fought, nearly three-hour victory came on a day when all the women favourites struggled but won.

Two-time defending champion Monica Seles, the top seed, won a war of attrition to oust unseeded Julie Halar of France 6-2, 6-7 (5-7), 6-0. She now will play Sabatini.

Second-seeded Graf of Germany beat No. 7 Jennifer Capriati 7-5, 6-2. In the semifinals, the German will go against No. 4 Arantxa Sanchez Vicario of Spain, who edged error-prone Mary Joe Fernandez, the fifth seed, 7-5, 6-4.

Both Capriati and Fernandez, the last two American hopes in the women's draw, led by a service break in each set.

In the men's quarterfinals Wednesday, No. 1 Jim Courier plays No. 7 Petr Korda, No. 2 Stefan Edberg faces unseeded Christian Bergstrom in an all-Swede matchup, No. 3 Pete Sampras meets unseeded Brett Seven of New Zealand, and No. 11 Guy Forget takes on No. 14 Michael Stich.

Pierce used her all-around game, particularly a ferocious forehand, to take advantage of the inconsistent serve that has bothered Sabatini since a warmup tournament, breaking her seven times.

Seles, the top seed, had been virtually untouchable, losing only eight games in four matches before running into the 29th-ranked Halar, who was playing in the quarterfinals of a Grand Slam for the first time in 23 tries.

Halar appeared to be unfazed



Germany's Steffi Graf is in full stretch after hitting a backhand (AFP photo)

from the beginning by Seles' barrage of blistering groundstrokes.

Seles looked as if she would overwhelm Halar quickly, breaking to go up 4-2, then finishing off the first set in 28 minutes when Halar was broken again on four errors.

But Halar refused to fold, taking advantage of her first opportunity to break Seles to go up 4-3. She served for the second set at 5-4, only to have Seles break to even the match.

Seles held, then had triple match point at 0-40 in the next game. The gutsy Halar pounded two service winners, sandwiched around a good volley that Seles hit long. After Seles netted a backhand, Halar blasted an ace to force the tiebreaker.

Halar never trailed in the tiebreaker, finishing it off on her second set point with a forehand crosscourt winner.

Seles then moved into top gear, and Halar started showing the results of the sideline-to-sideline running she was forced to do to keep up with Seles early.

Seles moved ahead 15-40 in the first game of the third set. Halar was called for a foot fault, then double-faulted to hand the game to Seles.

That seemed to deflate the heavy underdog, who double-faulted twice more in her last

set.

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Gabriela Sabatini

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANIAH HIRSCH
Tribune Media Services, Inc.

DUCK SOUP

North-South vulnerable. East deals.

NORTH	♦ A K 9 5 2
WEST	10
EAST	♦ A 9 4
SOUTH	♦ K 9 8 7
+ Q J 10 4 3 + 8 6	
6 4 AK Q 7 3 2	
10 6 8 7 5 3	
+ A J 5 2 + 10	

The bidding:

East: South West North

2 Pass 2 Dbl

Pass 3 Pass 3

3 NT Pass Pass

Opening lead: Six of

Lines of communication are often essential for both declarer and the defenders. Many battles over the green baize involve complicated strategy to maintain or break the links between hands, but once in a while the correct play is so simple it is easy to overlook. Consider this hand from the recent Spring North American Championships in Pasco, Wash.

Sitting East was former Europe-

an champion Per-Olov Sundelin of Sweden. His opening two-diamond bid showed a weak two in one of the majors, a convention very popular in Europe. West's two-heart response directed East to pass if the opening lead showed a heart suit, otherwise to correct to two spades. The rest of the auction was natural.

Let's suppose East wins to win the heart opening lead. Whether or not East were to continue with hearts, declarer can always make the contract by taking advantage of the favorable lie in club. When the ten clubs drop under the queen, the Principle of Restricted Choice suggests declarer finesse West for the jack—the ten is more likely to be a singleton than specifically from J 10 doubleton. That would give declarer two spade tricks, four diamonds and three clubs.

Unfortunately, South was given no chance to display any skill at dummy play—Sundelin ducked the first heart and declarer had scored a cheap heart trick. However, declarer had only seven fast tricks—four diamonds, two spades and the heart. As soon as West gained the lead with the ace of clubs, a heart return would permit East to cash five heart tricks for a two-trick set.

Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



1st Division Basketball Championship

Orthodoxi upset Ahli 84-81; Jazireh secure 3rd place

By Aileen Bannayan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Al Orthodoxi Tuesday needed an overtime to overcome all-time rivals Al Ahli 84-81 and force a third deciding match for the 1992 First Division Basketball Championship.

The match, held under the patronage of Her Royal Highness Princess Aisha Bint Al Hussein, was attended by an unprecedented 7000 basketball fans. It was one of the most competitive, both teams have played throughout their decade-long rivalry.

Had Al Ahli won they would have taken the trophy home as they had defeated Al Orthodoxi 68-65 in the first round. However, Al Orthodoxi's win means that both teams are now even and will play a deciding match Friday to determine the 1992 champion.

The match went into overtime after the second half ended with the scoreboard showing a 75-75 tie which Al Orthodoxi managed to secure in the final seconds.

Waled Badran led Al Ahli on an early lead at the beginning of the first half, followed by two three-pointers by Marwan Ma'touq that gave Al Ahli only a slim 12-11 lead that seemed to somewhat predict

Capriati, showing the comeback ability she demonstrated so well in her last three matches, broke Graf to go ahead 2-1 in the second set, but the German ran off the next five games to finish off the match.

"I think it was a really good match, especially in the first set," Graf said. "There weren't really many mistakes. We both went for shots."

"I kept her running around. She was very tired by the beginning of the second set. It was just impossible for her to keep hitting like that constantly."

Capriati had 41 forced errors to Graf's 17, revealing the pressure that Graf kept her under.

The set appeared to be heading for a tiebreaker with Capriati serving at 5-6 when Graf elevated her play a notch. She stroked a forehand crosscourt service return for a winner, then uncharacteristically charged the net three times, winning each point.

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broke Graf to go ahead 2-1 in the second set, but the German ran off the next five games to finish off the match.

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The set seemed to deflate the heavy underdog, who double-faulted twice more in her last

that the match would be a very close one.

Al Ahli's Naser Bushnaq secured rebounding as his team kept the lead 20-15. However Al Orthodoxi's Barakat brothers, Hilal and Murad scored 15 consecutive points, including 3 three-pointers by Murad giving their team a 30-24 lead.

Scoring remained close with Al Ahli regaining the lead at 36-32 after Badran successfully penetrated Al Orthodoxi's defenses and burdened their players with many fouls.

Al Ahli kept their lead at 40-36 after a slam dunk by Ramez Hammoudah. Yousef Zaghloul lost some foul shots while Hilal Barakat scored to end the first half 41-40 for Al Orthodoxi.

Both teams will now clash again Friday Jan. 29 at the Sports Palace Court.

Al Jazireh on the other hand won third place as they edged out competition from Al Hussein and Al Jaliil.

Al Hussein earned fourth place after overcoming Al Watani 98-97 in double overtime.

Al Abbasi and Hommen were relegated to the second division while two new-comers Al Wifad, and Al Ashrafi joined the First Division.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY JANUARY 27, 1993
By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES:
Moon in Aries seems to look like conclusion-jumping every time, so rethink all impulses today. Be aware that your thinking processes are likely being coloured through emotional bias.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19)
You can consider your own special talents today and tonight and study the best means by which you can be made to work in your own existence.

Taurus: (April 20 to May 20)
Your home affairs can wisely preoccupy you today and if you attend to them in a conscientious fashion you find that the accord there is increased.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21)
You are able to utilize lessons you have learned in the past to benefit you very much now so don't run away from problems for you will solve them well.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21)
You are thinking about your material affairs and how to have more of this world's goods than you have at present which is a good idea now.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21)
You are tied down to getting personal wishes done during the daytime so get into them with vigour and tonight you find a solution to perplexing issues.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22)
You are pondering during the day why you have not advanced

farther towards desired aims but remain steadfast and tonight you have added inspiration.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22)
A good day for you to let good friends know just what your personal and intimate aims are and to accept their assistance in obtaining them now.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21)
Outside interests can seem to limit you in the morning but painstaking attention to them brings you added respect, good while tonight go out on the town for pleasures.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21)
An older experienced newcomer has excellent ideas for your advancement so coax him/her into letting you in on them and tonight put in effect with enthusiasm.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20)
This is the day to make a list of your various activities and get one who has made a success in these directions to advise you, how best to handle them.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19)
A generous minded associate you have known for sometime will extend you assistance you desire and tonight entertain that person at your best.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20)
Your surroundings can be improved today and tonight by adding more colour, beauty and efficiency to them and tonight enjoy them, desired recreations.

THE BETTER HALF

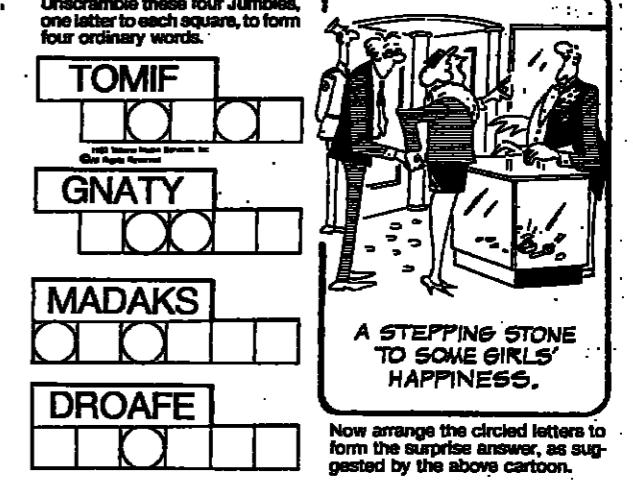
By Harris



"They say green M&M's make you more romantic! Come on, have another!"

JUMBLE

THAT SCRABBLE WORD GAME
by Henri Arnold

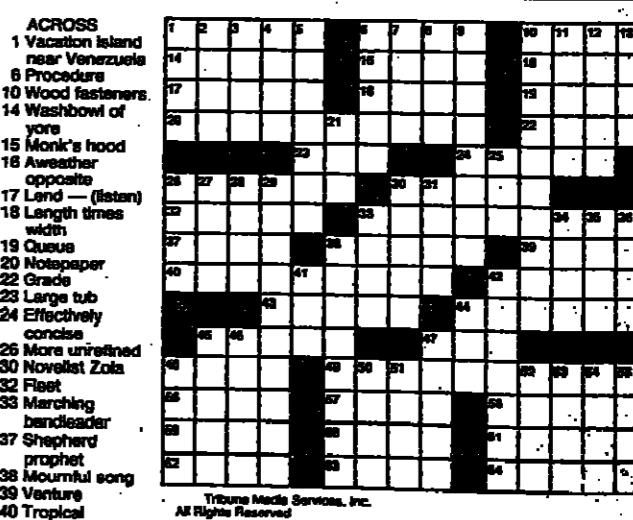


Print answer here: A C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z
(Answers tomorrow)

Jumbles: AUGUR TRUTH CARBON FORGER
Answer: The way it is with many a borrower—
TOUCH AND GO

THE Daily Crossword

by Harry Bryan



Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

5 Reached a point: SWIM
6 Barely enough: SPARE
7 Raced: RACE
8 Spotted pitcher: SPOT
9 After-school activity: ACT
10 Gypsy, e.g.: ROMA
11 Distinctive house: HOUSE
12 Distinctive class: CLASS
13 Go in search of: HUNT
21 Staff mover: STAFF
25 Shady tree: HAZEL
26 Study hard: INSTITUTE
27 Hindu: INCARNATION
28 Pop: POP
29 Shining: SHINE
30 Made a tax: TAX
31 Heavy glasses: SWAN
33 Jackknife or swan: SWAN
34 Door part: SWING
35 Eye test: SWEEP
36 A copy: COPY
38 To a lower level: SWIM
41 French king: CHARLES
42 Noted one, once: PETE
44 — Parrot: PARROT
45 Greek philosopher: PLATO
52 A Raines: RAINES
53 Aid in crime: ASSIST
54 Admiration: ADMIRE
55 Rock to and fro: TROT

مكتبة الأدب العربي

Financial Markets
in co-operation with
Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets	
Currency	New York Close Date 25/1/93
Sterling Pound*	1.5575
Deutsche Mark	1.5770
Swiss Franc	1.4465
French Franc	5.3325
Japanese Yen	123.45
European Currency Unit	1.2440

* 100 Per STG
** London Opening & 260 p.m. GMT

Hedgecurrency Interest Rates Date: 26/1/93

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	3.00	3.18	3.31	3.68
Sterling Pound	7.38	7.06	6.63	6.43
Deutsche Mark	8.62	8.37	8.00	7.46
Swiss Franc	5.31	5.37	5.31	5.18
French Franc	12.13	11.70	10.50	9.30
Japanese Yen	3.56	3.43	3.38	3.31
European Currency Unit	9.69	9.69	9.50	8.81

Interest bid rates for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 equivalent.

Previous Metals Dates: 26/1/93

Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm*	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	329.25	6.45	Silver	3.70	.080

* 24 Karat

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin Date: 26/1/93

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.664	0.686
Sterling Pound	1.0669	1.0722
Deutsche Mark	0.4357	0.4359
Swiss Franc	0.4727	0.4751
French Franc	0.1283	0.1289
Japanese Yen*	0.5517	0.5545
Dutch Guilder	0.3856	0.3875
Swedish Krona	0.0966	0.0971
Italian Lira*	0.0471	0.0473
Belgian Franc	0.02042	0.02052

* Per 100

Other Currencies Dates: 26/1/93

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.7950	1.8050
Lebanese Lira*	0.0250	0.0400
Saudi Riyal	0.1820	0.1830
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.2300	2.2900
Qatar Riyal	0.1846	0.1870
Egyptian Pound	0.1950	0.2150
Omani Riyal	1.7440	1.7590
UAE Dirham	0.1846	0.1870
Greek Drachma*	0.3200	0.3310
Cypriot Pound	1.4450	1.4725

* Per 100

CAB Indices for Amman Financial Markets:

Index	24/1/93 Close	25/1/93 Close
All-Share	193.06	191.05
Banking Sector	141.99	139.40
Insurance Sector	212.46	208.67
Industry Sector	262.36	261.16
Services Sector	255.50	254.82

December 31, 1990 = 100

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES	
LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at mid-session on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.	
One U.S. dollar	1.2718/23
	1.5768/78
	1.7720/30
	1.4518/28
	32.45/49
	5.3320/70
	1447/1452
	123.75/80
	7.0650/750
	6.6900/700
One sterling	6.0600/700
	1.5410/20
One ounce of gold	\$329.20/329.70

Tel: 677420

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Tuesday January 5th marks the opening of the new theatre season presenting:

Pandorumma (Ta'a wa Qaimah)

Daily at 8:30 p.m.

Tickets office open all day

Sears plans 50,000 job cuts

CHICAGO (AP) — Sears, Roebuck and Co. says it will cut about 50,000 full- and part-time jobs, close 113 stores and shut down its "big book" catalog also means closing some 2,000 Sears catalog stores, most owned by independent retailers.

Sears also said Monday it would discontinue some of its auto-repair services and sell a chain of women's apparel stores. Eliminating the catalog also means closing some 2,000 Sears catalog stores, most owned by independent retailers.

The cuts are the deepest Sears has made in the four years since the company began overhauling its merchandising group to combat declining sales and market share. Sears estimated the moves would save it \$300 million a year.

The austerity measures were more severe than most retail industry analysts expected, prompting praise for Arthur Martinez, the former Saks Fifth Avenue executive brought in by Sears Chairman Edward Brennan last August to revive the retailing unit.

"We have tried to attack all our non-performing businesses, non-strategic assets and to deal with them at one time," Mr. Martinez said in an interview. "I would like to believe this is a full and complete resolution of all of our major problems."

Sears said it would eliminate 16,000 full-time jobs and 34,000 part-time jobs within the Sears merchandise group, which runs the company's 859 stores, the catalog and Sears credit operations. The unit employs nearly 350,000 of Sears' 435,000 workers, about 112,000 of them as full-timers.

The company said it will take a \$1.9 billion after-tax charge in the just-ended fourth quarter to cover the costs of the cuts. Sears said all of the changes should be completed by early 1994, an estimate analysts called optimistic.

"It shows they have taken the initiative and responded to fragile

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Fear of hyperinflation sent the rouble spinning to a new low in Moscow Tuesday, increasing the cost of imported goods and threatening to punch a hole in a groaning budget deficit.

Traders at Moscow's tiny interbank currency exchange drove the rouble down to 568 to the dollar at a longer than usual session of more than an hour. A record \$84.83 million changed hands.

The currency had traded at 493 per dollar at the previous session Thursday and at 417 at the start of the year.

"We thought (the rouble) would fall a little, but not by this much," said an exchange spokesman.

Economists said the rouble's fall would push the price of imports up. If the government continued subsidising some imports by offering importers cash at a special exchange rate, government spending and the budget deficit would both soar.

The old Soviet rouble, still used in most former Soviet republics, is not freely convertible on world markets.

But twice weekly sessions on the Moscow exchange gives some 60 banks limited opportunities to

buy and sell dollars. The Russian central bank uses the rate set on the exchange as its semi-fixed "market rate."

"If the central bank buys dollars at the market rate it will make it more expensive for Russia to service foreign debt," said one Western economist.

Dealers said banks had dumped the rouble on fears that a huge injection of central bank cash in December would turn Russia's already high inflation into hyperinflation.

Russian prices rose over 2,200 per cent in 1992. Weekly inflation rates rose further this month after the central bank pumped an estimated 100 billion rubles into the economy.

"The central bank said the new notes aimed to crack down on forgery. But the decision to bring in new banknotes inevitably fuelled rumours that Russia planned to introduce its own national currency to replace the rouble.

The central bank press office was not available to comment on the rumours.

The former Soviet government sparked mass panic in January 1991 when it suddenly withdrew 50 and 100 rouble banknotes from circulation in what it said was a bid to clamp down on black marketeers.

The move undermined public confidence in the rouble and

new chief economic strategist Boris Yeltsin, have said curbing inflation and supporting the rouble are the government's key priorities.

But efforts to slow monetary growth to drive inflation down face strong opposition from Russia's free-spending central bank, which is controlled by a conservative parliament anxious to index wage and pension rates to inflation.

Russia this week said it was issuing new banknotes to run in parallel with the old notes, virtually all of which still bear the hammer and sickle emblem of the former Soviet Union.

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World News

Croatians step up offensive in Serb-held Krajina enclave

ZAGREB (R) — Croatian forces pressed ahead Tuesday with an offensive in the enclave of Krajina and Serb rebels massed for battle despite U.N. condemnation of the fighting, U.N. officials said Tuesday.

"Despite Security Council demands for an immediate end to hostile activities by the Croatian army, it is continuing with attempts to take further positions and infiltrate forces beyond the current (front)," a U.N. peace force spokeswoman said.

Shannon Boyd of the U.N. Protection Force stationed in former Yugoslavia said commanders of the Belgrade-backed Serb irregular forces based in Krajina's main city Knin "are continuing to move reinforcements forward."

Croatian troops stormed over a year-old U.N. ceasefire line on Friday with the stated objective of dislodging Serbs from Krajina's western fringe, where they had blocked Croatia's main north-south highway and closed a major airport.

But Mr. Boyd said Croatian forces appeared to be pushing beyond the U.N.-patrolled buffer zone between the Dalmatian coast and Krajina into the Serb-dominated enclave proper.

"Croatian army shelling has continued... in what appears to be a continuing attempt to move forward at various points along the confrontation line," she told Reuters.

International pressure to end the fighting in former Yugoslavia was stepped up Tuesday and action on the battlefields appeared

to ease after a whirlwind Croatian offensive.

The Security Council demanded the withdrawal of Croatian troops who struck Friday into the Serb-inhabited Krajina area of Croatia — protected by U.N. forces for the past year — and made key territorial gains, including a strategic airport.

The Croats said they intended to push Serbs back from the Adriatic coast to a new ceasefire line.

Any truce would be conditional on Serbs retreating 20 kilometres behind the previous year-old line, said Admiral Sveti Letica of the Croatian Navy.

France Tuesday ordered its aircraft carrier Clemenceau to head for the Adriatic after two French U.N. soldiers were killed Monday by crossfire in fierce fighting for control of a U.N.-monitored buffer zone east of the port of Zadar.

It said the move was designed "to ensure the security of the French forces."

In a unanimous resolution, the Security Council demanded an immediate end to attacks on U.N. Protection Force (UNPROFOR) troops and the immediate return of heavy weapons seized from UNPROFOR storage areas by Serbs in response to the Croatian offensive.

Nearly 5,000 French soldiers are serving with UNPROFOR.

The upsurge of fighting in Croatia threatened to undo peace talks in Geneva designed to end fighting in neighbouring Bosnia.

Snow-covered Sarajevo, the Serb besieged capital, passed a

quiet night before shelling began around the edge of the old town.

Minor shelling was also reported in nearby Vogosca and the northern Bosnia towns of Gradačac and Brčko, along the Serb-held land corridor between Serbia and Serb-held areas of Bosnia and Croatia which Muslim forces are trying to intersect with daily attacks.

Russia announced Tuesday it was sending Deputy Foreign Minister Vitaly Churkin to Croatia Wednesday, two days after the raised the threat of international sanctions against Zagreb.

The Foreign Ministry said Mr. Churkin was making the trip "in connection with the worsening situation in Croatia."

Mr. Churkin will discuss the crisis with President Franjo Tuđman, a spokesman said.

Mr. Churkin warned Monday that Russia might press for U.N. sanctions against Croatia over the attack, saying Moscow's U.N. mission had been briefed on the possibility.

The Foreign Ministry issued a separate statement the same day, branding Croatian attacks on Serb targets "ill-considered" and "unacceptable" and saying that they demanded and adequate response from the world community.

The Foreign Ministry is under constant attack from Russian nationalists and former Communists, who accuse it of abandoning Moscow's traditional Serb allies and slavishly adhering to Western desires.



French aircraft carrier Clemenceau at the Toulon docks. France announced officially that it is sending the Clemenceau to the Adriatic, following the killing of two French U.N. soldiers during the Croatian offensive in Croatia's Serb-held Krajina region (AFP photo)

16 Azeri troops die in barracks blast

MOSCOW (R) — Sixteen Azerbaijani soldiers were killed and 41 injured in an explosion at a barracks in western Azerbaijan, a Defence Ministry spokesman said Tuesday.

The blast, Sunday, partially destroyed the barracks at Adaman, 250 kilometres west of Baku and next to the disputed enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh.

There was no immediate indication whether it was connected to the bloody territorial conflict with Armenia, which has taken more than 2,500 lives in the past five years.

"First estimates suggest the explosion came from inside the barracks," said the spokesman, speaking by telephone from Baku. An investigation was being carried out.

Meanwhile, blacked-out and

energy-starved Armenia may introduce a state of emergency to prevent mass riots and a crime explosion, after losing its last source of fuel supplies, Izvestia newspaper said Monday.

The blast, Sunday, partially destroyed the barracks at Adaman, 250 kilometres west of Baku and next to the disputed enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh.

The evening paper quoted official sources as saying leaders of parliament and government had considered imposing a state of emergency and curfew after a gas pipeline in neighbouring Georgia was blown up Saturday, cutting off all fuel supplies.

No decision had been taken so far, Izvestia said.

An Armenian presidential spokesman blamed neighbouring Azerbaijan Sunday for the blast which cut the gas supplies.

Azerbaijan denied responsibility for the explosion, which occurred in a part of Georgia inhabited largely by Azeris.

ITAR-TASS News Agency quoted Energy Minister Steve Tashjian as saying it would take at least 10 days to repair the pipe line.

In a separate report TASS said work had also started on a temporary pipeline which might be ready by the end of the week.

Meanwhile, Armenia was using energy from its hydroelectric power station to supply at least some hospitals and bakeries.

Some petrol would be flown in from Russia, TASS said, adding that apartments would get electricity two or three hours daily.

In a separate report, TASS quoted the Azerbaijani Defence Minister Monday as saying Armenian forces shelled the Azerbaijani border village of Novoivanovka, in Kedabek district, inflicting civilian and military casualties.

Hunt begins for CIA rush-hour killer

WASHINGTON (R) — A manhunt was underway for a cold-eyed killer who methodically sprayed rifle fire into cars at the guarded Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) complex entrance Monday, killing two men and wounding three others.

The two men who died at the scene and two who were wounded were CIA employees, the spy agency said. The third wounded man worked for a CIA contractor, but no job titles were revealed.

Police and federal agents searched for a white man in his 20s, about five feet 10 inches (1.8 metres) tall who wore a dark, possibly military-style jacket and dark pants and sped from the scene in a station wagon towards Washington.

Police said they had several names of people they wanted to question about the rush hour shooting at the CIA entrance 16 kilometres from Washington at Langley, Virginia, but they gave no apparent motive for the shooting spree.

Whoever opened fire during the unprecedented attack at the agency did so with cold-blooded calculation.

All five men shot lived in the Virginia suburbs. Frank Darling, 28, and Lansing Bennett, 66, of Reston were dead on the scene. One unidentified man — who said he did not work at the CIA — was treated for what was described as a superficial gun shot wound and released from hospital.

Two other men were taken to hospital in critical condition, but later one of the men's condition was upgraded to serious.

In a statement, the CIA said its employees "are shocked and saddened at the senseless attack on our friends and colleagues" and said it lost "two respected members" and saw two others wounded.

Former CIA Director William Webster said in a TV interview it was too early in the investigation to know who the man was or whether he had a grudge against the agency.

"It's a reasonable inference that the man knew where he was, outside CIA Headquarters... knew that people had to wait their turn in traffic to go inside and had an opportunity to do what he did — and did it in a very calculating, cool manner," he said.

"He looked in my direction," Sen. Smith said. "He then turned and walked between these two rows of cars that were lined up to go into the CIA, and calmly and methodically with no emotion, no expression and no words, he simply walked up to the automobiles and fired at point-blank range into the windows at these people."

Sen. Smith said he heard a rapid "pop pop pop" four or five shots — before he saw shooting at the cars.

"She will draw no salary," Sen. Smith said. "I never have paid her for public service," the president said with a smile. "I don't want to start now."

The first lady can "bring people together around complex and difficult issues to hammer out consensus and get things done," said Mr. Clinton.

"I also figured if I (appointed her) that you'd know I meant it," he said.

Mrs. Clinton will work in the White House with Carol Rasco, Mr. Clinton's domestic policy adviser; Ira Magaziner, his senior policy adviser, and Judy Feder, who headed the transition health care team.

The appointment was hailed by Rep. Henry Waxman, D-Calif., who will play a key role in shaping health reform on Capitol Hill.

"It can only be a plus," said Rep. Waxman, chairman of the House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health and the Environment. "This move shows that health care is going to be a very serious priority for the Clinton administration."

Mr. Clinton argued during the campaign that a universal coverage could be paid for by squeezing excess costs from the current system. But his transition advisers reportedly advised Mr. Clinton that expanded coverage would drive up federal costs in the short term. Mr. Clinton wants to impose an overall spending cap on health expenditures and promote managed competition in which insurers force doctors and hospitals to keep costs down. His advisers also reportedly are looking into taxing a portion of employee health care benefits.

"We're going to have to make tough choices," said Mr. Clinton.

"Specifically, she said she was considering running for Senate."



U.S. President Bill Clinton (right) announces the creation of a national health care task force, which will be headed by Clinton's wife, First Lady Hillary Clinton (left) (AFP photo)

Although May 1 is day 100, the White House said the task force was expected to finish its work by the end of May.

"We are going to work constantly day and night until we have a health care plan ready to submit to Congress that we believe we can pass," said the president.

"We've talked about it long enough. The time has come to act," said Mr. Clinton, who wants to control skyrocketing costs and close the gaping holes in the

health safety net.

Some 35 million Americans — most from working families — now have no health insurance and 20 million more are inadequately insured.

Mr. Clinton made the announcement at the end of an hour-long meeting with his health advisers. He spoke at a lectern in the Roosevelt room, while Mrs. Clinton sat a few feet away at the end of the table with cabinet officers and other senior aides.

She did not speak while reporters

Column 10

Kris Kross, Pearl Jam win music awards

LOS ANGELES (R) — An eclectic range of grunge rockers, country crooners and rappers won top honours at the American Music Awards. The awards, based on a national poll of 20,000 Americans, generally favour safe, easy-listening singers, leaving the more adventurous performers out in the cold. Accordingly, Michael Jackson, Mariah Carey, Michael Bolton and Billy Ray Cyrus each won two awards. Arrested Development, a new soul group whose debut album was critically acclaimed last year, missed out in both categories in which they were nominated. There were eight double winners in all. Jackson had been nominated in five categories. There were some surprises. Seattle grunge rockers Pearl Jam won Favourite New Hard Rock Artist. Rappers Kris Kross, who scored one of last year's biggest hit singles, "Jump," also won two Best New Artist Awards. Country singer Billy Ray Cyrus injected a note of controversy when he picked up the Favourite Country Single Award for Achy Breaky Heart. Cyrus' debut album Some Gave All topped the billboard pop charts for 17 weeks last year, has earned heaps of scorn from the country establishment for his urbane good looks and huge commercial success. Cyrus also won the award for Favourite New Country Artist. He was edged out for favourite male country artist by Garth Brooks. Mariah Carey won Favourite Female Pop Artist and Favourite Adult Contemporary Album for her album Unplugged.

TIRASPOL (R) — The

country crooner

and

country crooner

and